

2. Study Legislation, Purpose, and Tasks

LEGISLATION

On August 2, 2005, President George W. Bush authorized the National Park Service to study the feasibility of establishing the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail as part of the FY 2006 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The Act also directed the Secretary to consult with federal, state, regional, and local agencies and representatives of the private sector, including the entities responsible for administering the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network (P.L. 105-312) and the Chesapeake Bay Program authorized by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1267).

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study is to determine whether the designation of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail as a national historic trail is feasible. Designation would serve as a reminder of the four hundredth anniversary of the founding of Jamestown as well as the exploratory voyages of Smith on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries between 1607 and 1609. It would also recognize the American Indian towns and culture of the seventeenth century, call attention to the natural history of the Bay, “complement the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Initiative, and provide new opportunities for education, recreation, and heritage tourism in the Chesapeake Bay region.”

TASKS

Historical research (historical narrative, bibliography, and resource inventory)
Draft determination of significance report